VIETNAM COURIER

November 20
1967
No 138
4th Year

Information Weekly — E.O. : 46 Tran Hung Dao Street, Hanoi — Democratic Republic of Viet Nam

THE PRESIDIUM OF THE SUPREME SOVIET OF THE U.S.S.R.

CONFERS LENIN ORDER ON PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH

ON the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution, the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. on Nov. 4 issued a decree conferring on President HO CHI MINH a Lenin Order, the highest distinction in the U.S.S.R.

We publish below the text of the decree, the message of the C.P.S.U. Political Bureau and the reply of President HO CHI MINH.

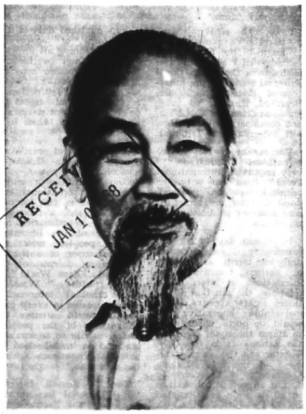
DECREE OF THE PRESIDIUM OF THE SUPREME SOVIET OF THE U.S.S.R. CONFERRING LENIN ORDER ON PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH

ON the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution, a LENIN ORDER is conferred on Comrade HO CHI MINH, an outstanding revolutionary and personality of the international communist movement, staunch fighter for socialism and for Soviet - Viet Nam friendship, President of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and President of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.
N. V. PODGORNY

Secretary of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.
M. GEORGADZE

Moscow, Kremlin, November 4, 1967



MESSAGE OF THE POLITICAL BUREAU OF THE C.C. OF THE C.P.S.U. TO PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH

Comrade HO CHI MINH
President of the Viet Nam Workers' Party Central Committee,
President of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam

Our dear brother and comrade-in-arms!

Dear Comrade HO CHI MINH,

The presidium of the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet has issued a decree conferring a Lenin Order on you. We warmly and sincerely congratulate you on receiving this high distinction.

This award once again pays tribute to your own great services and contributions to the struggle against imperialism, for the success of the ideals of socialist revolution and for the unity and solidarity of the socialist camp and the international communist movement.

This award once more expresses the deep love and profound respect of our Party and people for our Vietnamese brothers and sisters. It once again manifests our conviction that the Parties and peoples of our two countries will continue consolidating and developing our co-operation in the struggle against imperialism as well as in peaceful creative labour.

Dear Comrade HO CHI MINH, we wish you a long life, good health and many new successes in your noble activities in leading your Party and country.

On behalf of all the Communists and the entire people of the Soviet Union, we wish the fraternal Vietnamese people many new successes in their struggle against U.S. imperialism, for the freedom and the reunification of their Fatherland and for socialism.

The Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the C.P.S.U.

PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH'S MESSAGE TO THE C.P.S.U. CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Hanoi, November 6, 1967

To the Central Committee of the C.P.S.U.
Dear Comrades,

It was with boundless emotion that I learned of your decision to confer on me a Lenin Order and I wish to thank you with all my heart. May I make the following suggestion :

At present, the U.S. aggressors are stepping up their war of aggression against our Fatherland — Viet Nam. They are massacring in the most barbarous manner tens of thousands of my compatriots in the South as well as in the North.

Our armed forces and people throughout the country are shedding their blood to fight off U.S. aggression and save the country.

In these circumstances, my mind would not be at rest should I have now the particularly great honour of receiving a Lenin Order. For this reason, while thanking you with all my heart, I ask you to postpone the presentation of that infinitely high and noble award till the day when our people have driven off the U.S. imperialist aggressors and completely liberated our Fatherland, Viet Nam. Then I shall, on behalf of all my compatriots, receive with honour and joy the Order bearing the name of the great Lenin.

With Communist greetings
HO CHI MINH

SOUTH Vietnam

THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMED FORCES WIN REPEATED VICTORIES AT DAC TO (KONTUM), AN HOA (QUANG NAM), CAI LAY (MY THO) AND PHUOC LONG (BIEN HOA)

NORTH Vietnam

ON NOVEMBER 17, 1967

New U.S. Criminal Bombings of Hanoi Duly Punished :

10 Aircraft Downed

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BERTRAND RUSSELL INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL

SECOND OFFICIAL SESSION TO BE HELD IN COPENHAGEN

DO XUAN SANG
Assistant Secretary General of the Viet Nam Lawyers' Association

It is with great pleasure that the Vietnamese public learns of the forthcoming second official session in Copenhagen of the International Tribunal set up on the initiative of British philosopher, Bertrand Russell, to judge U.S. war crimes in Viet Nam, and commonly called B. Russell International Tribunal.

For us, the B. Russell International Tribunal is "a very important international event" from not only the political, but also juridical, point of view, in terms of contemporary public international law.

In present days when the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of nations constitute the foundations of international relations, the sanction of national rights appears as an ineluctable imperative. It would be quite meaningless to affirm the equal rights of the nations as do the U.N. Charter and the joint statement of the 1955 Bandung Conference, or the necessity to put an end to colonialism in all its form as stipulated by the Resolution of the 15th U.N. General Assembly in 1960, if a nation could commit with impunity aggression against another and rob it, in any form, of even a part of its sovereignty and independence. Nuremberg and Tokyo performed useful but inadequate work. It is known that each of these international military tribunals after World War Two held only one session and vanished later on, leaving a regrettable vacuum. Furthermore, Nuremberg and Tokyo punished only a definite form of aggression, without defining all forms of aggression and overlooking, for a good reason, neo-colonialist aggression which encroaches upon the fundamental national rights of newly-independent nations or nations regaining their independence.

Since the end of World War Two, the U.S.A., a neo-colonialist power, has become, on its own confession, the international gendarme, that is, the international brigand, a champion of world reactionaries and opponent of the liberation of the peoples, under the deceitful cover of anti-communism, of defence of the so-called "Free World" or simply of liberty. Washington's criminal intervention and aggression in every part of the world arouses the indignation of the peoples, and gives rise to an awakening and a mobilisation of universal conscience against the return to "jungle law."

The B. Russell International Tribunal has sprung, as Jean Paul Sartre aptly put it, out of this "vacuum" and this source. Its legitimacy is beyond discussion, as a "universal" international jury working for the peoples, including American, and harbinger of a permanent, authentic tribunal against war crimes the creation of which is imperative at the present world juncture. One may speak of a revolutionary legality but it should be recalled that the revolution has become not only legitimate but also legal in international law, as supreme recourse against arbitrariness and oppression, under the very terms of the Universal Declaration of Rights of 1948. The first official session of the Tribunal, held in Stockholm from May 2 to to last, achieved a great and indisputable success. Not only because sound conclusions had been drawn, but also because these conclusions had been drawn in the most sensible and juridical fashion, by abiding by the norms of criminal procedure. There, the U.S. government had been summoned to appear, and the Tribunal took cognizance of its official refusal to state its case and this, in spite of the repeated appeals addressed to it. In alleging that Dean Rusk "did not like to play with an old Englishman aged 94," the State Department and the White House made fools of themselves. What was more, public opinion in the world and in America saw in it ample proof of the odious crimes and bad faith of the U.S. Government. Jean Paul Sartre wished that the masses would endorse the Tribunal's decision. In fact, the masses not only in the socialist countries but also in all other countries and even in the U.S., have warmly approved and strongly supported the just condemnation of the U.S. Government and its accomplices, the governments of Australia, New Zealand and South Korea, as aggressors and authors of innumerable odious war crimes committed in their names both in South and in North Viet Nam.

Premier Pham Van Dong expressed the unanimous feelings of the Vietnamese people in the following part of his important speech on the occasion of Viet Nam's National Day, Sept. 2, 1967: "We highly appreciate the success of the first session of the B. Russell International Tribunal which has judged the U.S. imperialist aggressors, and exposed their odious crimes in the South and the North of our country, crimes of aggression, war crimes and crimes against mankind."

The first session of the Bertrand Russell International Tribunal has set an example. From August 28 to 30, 1967, for three days running, an international tribunal was held in Tokyo to try the U.S. war crimes in Viet Nam and the complicity of the Japanese government. This tribunal, composed of 21 prominent Japanese personalities, sat before an audience of 900, heard 36 witnesses, examined numerous exhibits and gave a unanimous verdict against the culpability of the U.S. Government and the criminal complicity of Japan's Etsaburo Sato government. A similar tribunal was held in Mexico during the Week of International Solidarity with Viet Nam, from Oct. 16 to 21 last.

Prompted partly on the decision of the first session of the B. Russell International Tribunal, the meeting of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers held in Mamai (Rumania) from Sept. 15 to 17 came to the following remarkable conclusions:

"The colonial war of aggression carried out by the U.S. against Viet Nam is both illegal and criminal in the eye of international law.

"Thus, it constitutes the supreme international crime under the very terms of the verdict of the Nuremberg Tribunal.

"The means and methods used by the U.S. constitute, moreover, war crimes aimed at killing the people en masse, wiping out all means of life and destroying the cultural and spiritual life in Viet Nam.

(Continued page 6)

MESSAGE OF PREMIER PHAM VAN DONG TO EARL BERTRAND RUSSELL

Earl BERTRAND RUSSELL
Honorary President of the International War Crimes Tribunal
London

On the occasion of the convening of the second session on Viet Nam of the International War Crimes Tribunal, I wish to convey to you my warmest greetings.

At the first session held in Stockholm, the International Tribunal brilliantly fulfilled its noble mission: The Tribunal officially condemned the heinous crimes committed by the U.S. imperialists in their war of aggression against our country, and voiced the common feelings of our people and the world's people. Your contribution to the Tribunal and the zealous activities of the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation were of great help to the success of the Tribunal's initial undertaking.

Welcoming the splendid outcome of the Tribunal in Stockholm, in my speech on the occasion of the 22nd anniversary of the founding of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, I pointed out that these are a strong stimulus to our people in the struggle against the U.S. aggressors:

"The Bertrand Russell International Tribunal is an event which clearly shows that broad sections of world opinion and the conscience of progressive mankind are on our side."

We are highly concerned with the forthcoming session of the Tribunal. More than ever, we are firmly convinced that the work of the distinguished members of the Tribunal at this session will end in complete success, for the triumph of a noble ideal which we have at heart.

Your Excellency,

We take this opportunity to renew our sincere thanks to you for your splendid initiative and wish you good health and a long life.

PHAM VAN DONG

NEW U.S. CRIMINAL AIR RAIDS ON HANOI

— Steel-Pellet Bombs on Populous Downtown Areas

— Rockets on I.C.C.'s Signal Corps

— Ten U.S. Jets Downed

At 8 a.m. on Nov. 17, 1967, U.S. aircraft attacked in several waves populous quarters and economic centres in downtown Hanoi and the suburbs. Steel-pellet bombs were dropped in particular on a large area comprising several residential quarters and civilian establishments (among them the Polytechnic College, the Economic College, Mo market, Mai Huong hospital, Bach Mai hospital, workers' and employees' residential blocks in Quynh Loi, Hai Ba ward and Dong Da ward) and along such thoroughfares as Bach Mai, Minh Khai, Truong Dinh and Dai Co Viet. In Quynh Loi, a C.B.U. dud was found after the raid, containing hundreds of unexploded steel-pellet bombs. The bombings caused many fires and large numbers of casualties among civilians, many of them women and children. The diplomatic quarter was also attacked.

At 11 a.m. a second raid took place. Rockets were fired on the office of the Indian delegation of the International Commission of Supervision and Control (I.C.C.) at the corner of Phan Chu Trinh and Ly Thuong Kiet streets. The building was heavily damaged; one Indian soldier was killed, another wounded.

The offices of the Ministry of Culture in Ngo Quyen street in the central part of the city was hit by rockets. The chairman of the I.C.C. branch and a liaison officer of the Liaison Mission of the Viet Nam People's Army immediately visited the raided places together with home and foreign correspondents. The tail of a U.S.A.F. *Strike* missile was found on the first storey of the I.C.C. Signal Corps building.

Preliminary reports supplied plenty of evidence of American deliberate attacks on populous downtown areas and offices of diplomatic mission. The steel-pellet bombs dropped were undeniably anti-personnel weapons.

In the face of U.S. escalation, the Hanoi people maintained sang froid and order and struck back resolutely at the aggressors. Ten U.S. jets were downed over the capital city.

(By our special correspondent)

COMMUNIQUE OF THE D.R.V.N. COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

In early November 1967, the Council of Ministers met under the chairmanship of Premier Pham Van Dong to hear a report given by Vice Premier Le Thanh Nghi, head of the economic delegation of our government on the results of the friendly visits to the Soviet Union, the P.R. of China and other brother socialist countries and of the signing of the 1968 agreements on economic and military assistance with these countries.

The Council of Ministers rejoiced that our government economic delegation, warmly welcomed and heartily helped by the socialist countries, had brilliantly fulfilled its mission. It rejoiced that the Party and State leaders of the socialist countries had highly prized the international significance of our people's just and bound to win struggle against U.S. aggression, for national salvation, and that they had affirmed that their Parties, governments and peoples were determined to increase their comprehensive support and assistance to our people until final victory.

The American imperialists are feverishly stepping up and extending their aggressive war in our country. Under these conditions, the Council of Ministers highly prizes the deep sympathy and the strong support of the Parties, governments and peoples of the brother countries to the struggle of the people in our whole country against U.S. aggression, for national salvation and to the correct positions of our Party and Government and of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. The signing of the agreements on economic and military assistance is a great and precious aid granted by the socialist countries in the spirit of proletarian internationalism so that our people may increase their economic and defence forces with a view to defeating the U.S. aggressive imperialists. It is an active contribution to the consolidation and development of the militant solidarity and of the relations of cooperation and friendship between our country and the socialist countries for the common revolutionary cause.

The Council of Ministers sincerely thanks the Parties, governments and peoples of the brother countries.

The Council of Ministers calls on our entire people and army, all branches of activity, and organizations at all levels, to raise their self-relying spirit, develop their capacities and creative spirit, and at the same time use in the best way the brotherly aid so as to step up the great patriotic struggle, to be determined to defeat the U.S. war of aggression under any circumstances with a view to defending the North, liberating the South, progressing towards national re-unification and contributing to defending the socialist camp, supporting the national liberation movement, defending peace in South East Asia and in the whole world.

WE SINCERELY THANK THE BROTHER COUNTRIES FOR THEIR STAUNCH SUPPORT AND GREAT AND PRECIOUS ASSISTANCE

Excerpts from Nhan Dan *editorial, Nov. 9, 1967*

"The recent agreements signed by the economic delegation of our government with the brother socialist countries — agreements concerning their economic and military assistance to our country — clearly bespeak the strong and warm support and the ever greater and more precious assistance of the parties, governments and peoples of these countries to our people. The communiqué of the D.R.V.N. Council of Ministers gave the following appraisal about this support and assistance:

"The American imperialists are feverishly stepping up and extending their aggressive war in our country. Under these conditions, the Council of Ministers highly prizes the deep sympathy and the strong support of the Parties, governments and peoples of the brother countries to the struggle of all our people against U.S. aggression, for national salvation and to the correct positions of our Party and Government and of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. The signing of the agreements on economic and military assistance is a great and precious aid granted by the socialist countries in the spirit of proletarian internationalism so that our people may increase their economic and defence forces with a view to defeating the U.S. aggressive imperialists. It is an active contribution to the consolidation and development of the militant solidarity and of the relations of co-operation and friendship between our country and the socialist countries for the common revolutionary cause."

The support and assistance of the socialist countries encourage our people and armed forces in the whole country in their sacred struggle for independence and freedom and of the common benefit of the socialist camp and of the world revolutionary movement. The glorious military successes of our people are linked with the support and assistance of the socialist camp. The more feverishly the U.S. imperialists step up their war of aggression, the more closely the socialist countries unite with our people and the more they increase their support and assistance to our people. Such a fact proves that the brother socialist countries are resolved to help our people struggle against the U.S. aggressors.

Justice is on our side. We are possessed of the solidarity of 31 million people united in their determination to struggle against the U.S. aggressive imperialists. The whole socialist camp of 1,000 million people actively support and assist our country in the lofty spirit of proletarian internationalism. We enjoy the sympathy and support of independence, democracy and peace-loving mankind. We are bound to win over the U.S. imperialists.

Sincerely thanking the Parties, governments and peoples of the socialist countries for their strong support and great and precious assistance, our people are determined to use in the best way this brotherly aid to further step up their struggle against U.S. aggression, for national salvation, obtain bigger successes, fulfil their national and international duties, to liberate the South, defend the North, progress towards national reunification and contribute to defending the socialist camp and peace in South East Asia and the world.

A COURAGEOUS AND RESOLUTE ACTION: Desertion of 4 Seamen of the "Intrepid"

Four American seamen serving on board the American aircraft-carrier *Intrepid* of the Seventh Fleet deserted as a protest against the U.S. war of aggression in Viet Nam, announced on Nov. 13 the "Peace in Viet Nam" Japanese Committee in Tokyo.

They were: John Michael Barilla, 20, Richard D. Barley, 19, Michael Lindner, 19, and Craig Anderson, 20. They wanted to ask for political asylum in Japan or other countries not involving in this war.

The *Intrepid* which took part in the operations in Bac Bo Gulf against North Viet Nam called on October 1, 1967 at Yokosuka base to enable its crew to take a rest. It was then that the four above-mentioned young Americans left the ship.

At a press conference held on November 13 in Tokyo by the "Peace in Viet Nam" Japanese Committee, they issued a joint declaration saying, "We think that the U.S. should stop all bombardments and withdraw from Viet Nam to let the Vietnamese settle their own affairs. We believe that our action will urge those who still are in the U.S. army to act for an end to this war."

Besides this joint declaration, they made separate statements on the U.S. crimes in Viet Nam. Barley said, "I would prefer to be called communist if my action contributes to the ending of this war."

Anderson stressed, "When I worked on board the *Intrepid*, I saw the loading of tons of bombs and jet planes taxi off one after the other. The U.S. war machine quickly stiffles the freedom guaranteed us, Americans."

Lindner declared, "I am convinced that my presence in the Viet Nam war is immoral and utterly inhuman. I stand against wholesale massacre."

Barilla said, "The statement of the U.S. government about communism and freedom cannot be an excuse for the massacre of many Americans and Vietnamese. No, I am but an American who acts according to reason and I am not alone."

The desertion of these four American servicemen to oppose the U.S. war in Viet Nam is an energetic and courageous action. These four youths have realized the truth on the Viet Nam war, the ultra-reactionary and dangerous policy of the American rulers and their heinous crimes. That is why they are resolved to oppose this war, to unveil the odious and aggressive nature of the American authorities despite the difficulties they and their families may encounter. Their act is a telling blow dealt at Johnson at a time when he is making a tour of military bases to egg on the G.I.s to go and die in Viet Nam for the sake of the American monopoly. Their act is to champion the interests of the American youth and people and defend the honour of the U.S.

News from LAOS

The Downing and Destruction of 700 U.S. Planes in Laos Welcomed

In their struggle against U.S. aggression, for national salvation, the brother Lao people have recorded ever bigger and more important successes. Particularly during the last years, they have defeated the U.S. war of destruction against the Lao liberated areas.

On October 29, 1967, the Xieng Khoang people and army shot down one U.S. plane, bringing the total number of planes the U.S. has lost in Laos to 700 (from May 17, 1964 to Oct. 29, 1967).

The victories of the brother Lao people are a direct and precious support and a great source of encouragement to the struggle of the Vietnamese people against the U.S. aggressors for national salvation.

They are the successes of the Indo-Chinese people in their fight against their common enemy — U.S. imperialism — for independence and freedom.

NORTH VIETNAM

DEFENDERS OF HANOI

HANOI was anew attacked by American planes on Sunday October 29, 1967. Order to intercept the enemy was given to Ch.'s formation in which took part Thanh N., the pilot who had scored the 100th plane for Hanoi.

Through their field-glasses, the airmen of Ch.'s formation saw around them many enemy jets. When our planes rushed toward them, the *Phantoms* immediately fired their missiles, a sign of confusion of the enemy right at the beginning of the air encounter. After dodging the missiles, Ch. gave orders to attack four jets in front of him. Immediately two enemy planes behind Ch.'s formation sped up and released another two missiles. With calmness, our pilots avoided them. Ch. ordered Thanh N., "Continue to keep close to the enemy, and calmly."

All of a sudden, the enemy formation pursued by Thanh N. turned round so that the distance between the enemy and N. who was rushing upon him was greatly reduced. A collision between our planes and those of the enemy was about to take place when suddenly the adverse pilots thrown in confusion veered. Availing himself of this opportunity, Thanh N., with a skilful technical manoeuvre, closed in upon an F-4 which in an attempt to dodge N.'s blow, laid bare its fuselage to be pierced by N.'s shots and crashed at the southern gate of Hanoi.

"12 F.105s are flying in direction X., commander!" that was what Do Van Thuong from his observation post was clearly reporting to his C.P.

The experience gained after over one hundred air battles, his personal study of the enemy's flying itineraries and the flying tricks of American pilots helped Thuong guess the enemy's scheme.

"Commander, we can give battle to the enemy at C. position."

His guess fell in line with that of Kha who gave orders to the whole formation, "Attack the first formation, second plane on the left!"

But Thuong had not finished his word "The enemy was nose-diving" when Kha shouted "Fire!"

The enemy received the blow in the nick of time. The marauder plane on the left took fire. A red-and-white parachute was jerked out of the bright flame.

The enemy second formation rushed in and lost a plane in the same condition. Though the sky was cloudy and darkened by powder smoke, Thuong made regular reports to the C.P.

The second battle began. Thuong reported: "The planes in the lead play a trick," "12 F.105s are flying in direction 32..."

This time, the enemy jets were rushing toward Thuong.

Nobody could hear the bombs drop under his feet, rend his ears or strike at the fortifications more distinctly than him. But he kept reporting regularly to the C.P. Each time after the powder smoke had disappeared, when they looked at the observation post and saw Thuong, with his steel helmet on, constantly watching the enemy planes, our artillerymen were overjoyed and full of confidence; they compared Do Van Thuong of Hanoi to Thai Van A* of Con Co.

** Outstanding fighter on Con Co Island, Hero of the Viet Nam People's Army.*

Photo: **Ready to go into action**

HENRI Van Regenmorter, a French astrophysicist recently made a stay in North Viet Nam in the course of which he visited Hanoi University evacuated to the countryside, the Museum of the Revolution, the Museum of Art, Ha Tay province, and places savagely bombed by U.S. aircraft.

Before leaving Hanoi, he wrote the following article for Viet Nam Courier:

THANKS TO VIET NAM!

DURING my 15 days' stay in Viet Nam, I have heard, seen and learnt many things. On the day of my arrival, Hue street in the central part of Hanoi was subjected to criminal bombing. But on the ruins, children were already playing: I shall never forget the smiles on their faces. Those terror bombings against civilians are in themselves an admission of the bitter failures sustained by U.S. imperialism in Viet Nam. Far from disheartening the people, they contribute to galvanizing all energies, and many foreign correspondents have stressed the fact that the North Vietnamese people have drawn renewed strength from those trials. On this score, the Pentagon's plans have come to grief since long, for they had naively foretold they would bring the people of North Viet Nam to their knees within a short time.

Nothing is more remote from the truth than the idea abroad that the Vietnamese people are on the defensive. Far from being on their knees, they are holding their heads high, for they know that everywhere in the South the Liberation Army is master of the situation and that the whole country is perfectly ready to foil any fresh U.S. war escalation. And I have been able to see not only how the imperialists' plans to disrupt the economy and communication lines had failed, but also how the country had decentralised itself and become a maze of impregnable fortresses.

But what is most extraordinary for a foreign visitor is the fact that in spite of the war, and often partly because of the requirements of war, substantial economic progress has been achieved. The North Vietnamese countryside is undergoing quick changes: thanks to good irrigation, rationalisation of farming in the co-operatives, and use of new green composts, regions where three crops are obtained per year are becoming ever more numerous, and the target of 5 tons of rice per hectare has been reached, even surpassed in many villages and districts.

As a university man, I have been struck by the considerable efforts made in the field of education. In spite of the war, never has school enrolment been so high in Viet Nam, never has so much attention been paid to the training of scientific and technical cadres: the country needs them now and will badly need them in the future. During my visit to the University of Hanoi evacuated to the jungle, I got the impression that I had come to a deep understanding of the reasons behind the Vietnamese people's confidence in victory. The same confidence could be sensed in all the political and educational cadres I met: never have they devoted so much time and thought to the study of the great scientific and technical options that will preside over the future development of Viet Nam!

THAT a small country of courageous men with long traditions of revolutionary struggle should succeed in holding in check the biggest industrial and military power of all times, we in the whole world should try harder to understand this example of determination and optimism and draw lessons from it!

Of course a powerful movement of solidarity with fighting Viet Nam has been developing in the world. So much is at stake in this war for the future of peace in the world and that of all peoples struggling to win or preserve their independence that seldom in the course of history has such a powerful movement of solidarity been witnessed. However, this movement of support to the Vietnamese people's struggle would be even more powerful if the nature of this war were better understood and if in the whole world peoples had a more accurate idea of the real relation of forces. Here in Viet Nam imperialism is everywhere on the defensive. Liberation armies decide where and how they will fight. Everywhere in the world, the movement of support should be on the offensive and put an end to certain reserves which could only play into the hands of the enemy.

While the Vietnamese people are living under a deluge of bombs and napalm, it is they who are teaching us how to refuse to let ourselves be intimidated by American power. It would be incomprehensible and unjustifiable that other peoples should continue to overestimate American power. It is in Viet Nam that U.S. imperialism has come to grief; so it is in the very course of action against the war that unity should be achieved and reinforced in the other countries among all forces of the left for a policy of peace and national independence.

Indeed, it is not because we are by principle anti-American that we are calling for a clear-cut attitude vis-à-vis American imperialism. The disasters of World War Two which resulted from German expansionism and militarism are still too vivid in our minds for us to be unaware that capitulation before American militarism and expansionism is tantamount to resigning ourselves to a Third World War.

Support to the Vietnamese people's struggle must be in keeping with the invaluable services they are rendering to all. For by checking American aggression, Viet Nam will not only win back her independence, unity and freedom but will also make a decisive contribution to the defence of world peace.

In France, we are doing our utmost to bring home this point to people. I wish that in the world more people would grasp it.

NORTH VIET NAM

Up to Nov. 18, 1967

2,558

U.S. planes were downed

SOUTH VIETNAM

AFTER GREAT SUCCESSES IN SUMMER AND AUTUMN OF 1967

THE SOUTH VIET NAM ARMED FORCES AND PEOPLE BEGIN THE 1967 WINTER-1968 SPRING WITH RESOUNDING VICTORIES

AFTER five months of summer-autumn victories putting out of action 143,000 enemy troops, the South Viet Nam armymen and people open the 1967 winter-1968 spring with a string of great victories.

During the first half of October last, they dealt the adversary stinging blows in all theatres of operations. On Highway 7 in particular, the P.L.A.F. annihilated thousands of enemy troops, among them one U.S. battalion at Chon Thanh (Thu Dau Mot province), wiped out one crack battalion of puppet Division 25 at An Cuu (Hue) and destroyed 40 tanks and armoured cars of puppet Armoured Regiment 7.

The P.L.A.F. also defeated the enemy at Loc Ninh (Oct. 28 - Nov. 2), decimating 3 battalions and 8 companies of American and puppet troops; at Giong San and Tu Dien hamlets (Ben Tre province), they wiped out one puppet battalion of special forces "Black Tiger" and one puppet crack battalion of puppet Division 21 (in the night of Oct. 28 and Nov. 3); in Cai Lay military subsector (My Tho province) and at Phuoc Binh, Phuoc Long (Bien Hoa province), they put out of action over 1,300 enemy troops among them 2 puppet crack battalions (Nov.4 and 5). In the Western High Plateaux theatre of operations U.S. Infantry Division 4 and Paratroop Brigade 173 were in a sorry plight at Dac To. The American casualty list already watered down mentioned 415 dead and wounded. Up to now 10 enemy battalions and one armoured regiment were put out of action.

The P.L.A.F. victories at the beginning of this 1967 winter-1968 spring show the powerful offensive and winning position of the South Viet Nam armymen and people and the wavering, passive and hopeless position of the enemy. In every engagement the P.L.A.F. held the initiative, struck hard, controlled the battlefield and inflicted heavy casualties upon the adversary. In the past two winter-spring seasons (1965 1966 and 1966-1967) the U.S. and puppets had since the outset launched big operations in an attempt to wrest back the initiative, but at the beginning of this winter-spring campaign they were compelled to cope with the P.L.A.F. blows and suffered heavy setbacks as seen in the above-mentioned operations.

The victories of the P.L.A.F. at the beginning of this winter-spring also testify to the initiative and winning position of the South Viet Nam armymen and people in all theatres of operations, in the hilly regions, plains, communication lines, towns and key "pacification" areas. In the Loc Ninh battle, the P.L.A.F. destroyed the enemy's reinforcements; at Phuoc Binh, they launched repeated attacks in two days; at Giong San and Tu Dien, they struck at the enemy outside his encampments, and in the attack on the Cai Lay military subsector and the An Hoa airfield, they annihilated his command and attacked him even in his "safe" rear. Such glorious victories were due to the high fighting technique, wise stratagems, deep hatred for the enemy, and firm determination to win of the P.L.A.F.

The overriding feature of these victories is that they took place right at the gates of Saigon (Bien Hoa and Thu Dau Mot) and in the very key "pacification" areas of the enemy (My Tho and Ben Tre). When the American imperialists were bragging about their phony victories and striving to prettify the puppet administration in an attempt to prove that "all was well," these victories were of greater significance both in the military and political fields.

Together with these military successes, the people's uprising to break the grip of the enemy in these battle areas is worth mentioning. Whole series of "strategic hamlets" and "prosperity zones" were destroyed. "pacification" teams were wiped out, hundreds of cruel puppet officials punished, all this contributed to the victories of the P.L.A.F. No doubt, the successes at the beginning of this season herald a winter-spring of victories for the South Viet Nam armymen and people, and the ever more heavy and inescapable defeat of the U.S. aggressors, their puppets and satellite troops.

LOC NINH BIG VICTORIES

THE Loc Ninh military sector in Thu Dau Mot province is an important outpost on Highway 13, near Highway 14, 120 km north of Saigon and 14 km from the Cambodian border. With more than ten companies of "security" troops, Rangers, "civil guards," reconnaissance troops and combat police, it was to exert control over Highways 13 and 14 and the people in the immense rubber plantations of hundreds of square kilometres.

THE OCCUPATION OF LOC NINH TOWNSHIP

AT 0:00 hour on Oct. 29, 1967, the defence wall of Loc Ninh was broken through. In no time, P.L.A.F. artillery cleared barbed wire entanglements and mine fields. Before the blockhouses could open fire, P.L.A.F. storming troops reached the heart of the military sector, occupying the headquarters and the administrative offices, 4 companies of "security" troops and Rangers protected by strong defence works could not resist the P.L.A.F. attack coming from all directions. The township was soon occupied. 4 platoons of reconnaissance troops, combat police, "civil guards" and Rangers and a "pacification" team had 550 men killed, wounded or captured.

The population in the township rose up to break the enemy grip. They duly punished puppet administrative heads and thugs and organized the ceremony of victory with P.L.A.F. troops in the heart of the city. The nearby training camp of puppet Rangers with a strength of 6 companies did not dare to budge to the rescue of the puppets.

The artillery emplacement in Hon Quan township, about 30 km from Loc Ninh, was attacked by local troops and guerillas: 4 105-mm guns and 9 blockhouses and underground shelters were destroyed.

6 of the planes sent to the rescue were shot down or destroyed.

Mme Nguyen Thi Dinh, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces among women fighters.

A U.S.-PUPPET TASK FORCE WIPED OUT IN THE LOC NINH AIRFIELD AREA

THE township being occupied, the airfield was threatened. The Ranger training camp was in danger of being annihilated, which obliged the U.S. command to play its trump-card by sending in U.S. Infantry Division 1.

On the afternoon of Oct. 29, 5,000 enemy troops including 2 infantry battalions, 1 artillery battalion and 1 armoured battalion of U.S. Infantry Division 14 and 1 battalion of puppet Regiment 9 (Division 5) landed on the Loc Ninh airfield, Mang Trai and the Ranger training camp. They were immediately encircled by P.L.A.F. columns.

On the morning of Oct. 30, a reconnaissance company of the U.S. detachment in Mang Trai, 5 km west of Loc Ninh, was attacked by local troops and guerillas and lost 80 men. While the other U.S. detachments were busy consolidating their positions, the Loc Ninh airfield area was violently attacked on the night of Oct. 30 to 31.

At 23:45 hours, P.L.A.F. artillery pounded away at the 3 U.S. detachments, making it impossible for 3,000 men taken in a wide net-fire to call for reinforcement.

All at once, in the Loc Ninh airfield area, P.L.A.F. artillery was reinforced by machineguns, submachine-guns and rifles firing from all directions. Startled and embarrassed, the enemy had hardly time to use artillery and armoured forces whet the P.L.A.F., supported by artillery, struck an enemy cantonments.

P.L.A.F. fighters were free to co-ordinate their action and prevented the enemy from re-grouping or fleeing. They destroyed all the tanks and cannons.

The battle took place as scheduled. The P.L.A.F. artillery fire was accurate, the storming party acted simultaneously. Mang Trai and the Ranger training camp hit by artillery lost 6 cannons.

After 2 hours of valiant fighting, the P.L.A.F. wiped out a task force made up of 3 U.S. battalions of infantry, artillery and armoured troops, decimated 1 puppet battalion, destroyed 12 cannons, 40 tanks and armoured cars and seized a large quantity of arms and munitions.

MANG TRAI U.S. POSITION OVERRUN

LEAVING no respite to the enemy, P.L.A.F. artillery on the night of Oct. 31 showered fire for half an hour on U.S. positions in the township and the puppet Ranger training camp.

The annihilation of the task force at Loc Ninh airfield had truck fear into the enemy in Mang Trai east of Loc Ninh.

On the night of Nov. 11, the first P.L.A.F. artillery rounds paralyzed both enemy artillery emplacements. From two directions, the people's

(Continued page 6)

South Viet Nam Heroes

PHAN THANH CHUNG,

AN EXPERT IN THRUSTS INTO ENEMY LINES

TAN LE post, an important position in the Ba Long defence line 10km southwest of Quang Tri town, was wiped out by the P.L.A.F. on the night of October 19, 1965.

In this action, Phan Thanh Chung and his team broke through the enemy artillery position, swept through the post from west to east, assaulted the C.P. with satchel grenades and captured the captain commanding the puppet battalion, thus contributing to the victory of their unit.

After this attack, the enemy reinforced the place. All vegetation hundreds of metres around it was cleared. Surrounding the post — a triangle more than one hundred metres on each side — was a complex system of modern and primitive obstacles one hundred and fifty metres wide. Inside the position were casemates built deep in the ground provided with loop-holes. Several of them were covered with logs of jackfruit wood with a layer of concrete on top capable of resisting heavy shellings. Moreover, the base could rely on the protecting artillery of Ba Long, La Vang and Dong Ha posts.

One night in October, 1966, Phan Thanh Chung's unit received the order to destroy the post: Chung was to lead the main prong whose task it was to knock out the enemy C.P. The fighters had broken through four entanglements of barbed wire when they were stopped by a wide and deep moat the bed of which was covered with barbed wire of various kinds and bristling with bamboo and steel spears.

Now they could see the enemy sentries on the rampart, but the open country around them offered no help to the attackers. Having only fifteen minutes to spare, Chung cautiously got down the moat, felt for a solid foothold and urged his comrades to tread on his back and step over the obstacle. Then he led his men through three other barriers and penetrated into the compound in safety.

As the night wore on, the weather chilled down. The position resembled a cemetery the silence of which was from time to time disturbed by gong beats. The interval between enemy starshell explosion grew longer. In the dark bunker the adversary was sleeping soundly. Only the C.P. was lighted by a small hurricane lamp but the signal man on duty also yawned between puffs of cigarette.

Chung scanned the enemy casemates. Suddenly the telephone rang, then an officer emerged from the dug-out and seized the receiver. From his distressed look, Chung inferred that warning was being given by the watchers of the imminent attack. So he rapidly lobbed a satchel grenade at the transmitter then another one into the C.P. dug-out.

The explosions did the duty of an order to assault. From all sides the Liberation fighters swooped on the casemates. Machineguns, grenades and explosive charges made a deafening noise. The enemy taken unawares was stunned into inaction. Soon a junior lieutenant surrendered.

The C.P. was blown to pieces. The lieutenant commanding the company was killed together with a junior lieutenant and two of his men. Once the C.P. cleared, Chung blasted off several casemates around it and made contact with another team. By then his teammates had also fulfilled their tasks, collected their booty and captured a puppet sergeant. Five minutes, the calm settled again on the battlefield. Tan Le post was completely wiped out.

In 1965 and 1966 Phan Thanh Chung destroyed 4 enemy C.P.'s, comprising two battalion C.P.'s, one company C.P. and one district centre, knocking down 50 enemy troops including 2 captains, 3 lieutenants, captured 3 fire-arms, destroying one 105mm gun, one heavy machine gun and one 81mm mortar. He deserved to be called "invincible steeled fighter" by the people and his comrades. His exploits have also earned him the tittle of "hero" awarded by the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation.

Loc Ninh Big Victories

(Continued from page 5)

forces pushed into the American positions and cut them into pieces.

The whole U.S. 600 strong battalion was wiped out, 12 cannons were destroyed.

U.S. INFANTRY DIVISION 25 BADLY MAULED

REPEATEDLY defeated, Brigade 2 of U.S. Infantry Division 1 lost its drive. It had to be relieved by U.S. Infantry Division 25 which landed troops on a height 6km northeast of Loc Ninh, to avoid P.L.A.F. encirclement.

Ready for action, the P.L.A.F. attacked on the night of Nov. 2, the detachment of Division 25 on Hill 224 and rapidly wiped out 2 companies of U.S. infantry men and Rangers.

Thus, after 5 days of engagement, the P.L.A.F. killed or wounded 2,800 enemy troops among them 2,000 G.I.'s (1 U.S.-puppet task force with 4 U.S. battalions annihilated and 1 puppet battalion decimated), destroyed 40 tanks and armoured cars and 36 cannons.

TO THE READER

We are aware that there is much room for improvement in the wording of our paper. We apologize for this shortcoming and highly appreciate all your suggestions as they will help us to serve you more efficiently in future.

P.L.A.F. fighters ready to go to the front

A DASTARDLY ACT

ACCORDING to Western news agencies, the American aggressors and the Thieu Ky clique announced their intention to execute 3 South Vietnamese patriots in Chi Hoa prison on the morning of Nov. 17, 1967. These 3 patriots had been arrested in late 1966 and sentenced to death for "subversive activities in Saigon."

Recently, the N.F.L. decided to release 3 captured American servicemen. This is a manifestation of the Front's policy of leniency towards captured war criminals. The decision taken by the Americans and their agents to execute 3 Vietnamese patriots was an act of brazen provocation which laid bare their blood-thirsty and inhuman nature. What the U.S. aggressors have proclaimed to be the "defence of freedom and democracy" is in fact but the setting up in Saigon of a savage fascist regime.

The odious crime projected by the U.S. aggressors and the Thieu-Ky clique is evidence of their desperate situation. They have suffered heavy defeats in all battlefields: Loc Ninh, Dac To, Phuoc Binh, My Tho, Ben Tre, Rach Gia, Binh Thuan, Quang Nam, Quang Tri - Thua Thien etc... They have been driven to insanity by the heavy blows dealt to them in their dens in Saigon-Cholon.

On November 16, *Giai Phong* Press Agency issued a statement strongly protesting against the above savage action. The statement warned that "if the lives and freedom of the 3 patriots and all other patriotic fighters are violated, the N.F.L. reserves for itself the right to carry out adequate actions in reply."

Bertrand Russell...

(Continued from page 2)

"By their large-scale and systematic character, they constitute crimes against mankind and real crime of genocide, as defined by international law."

The second official session of the B. Russell International Tribunal will have to examine U.S. war crimes in Viet Nam as a whole and the prevention of the U.S. crime of genocide against the Vietnamese and Lao peoples. In this matter, it will have at its disposal ample information and valuable testimonies provided by an investigation team of the Tribunal returning from the liberated zones of South Viet Nam. Undoubtedly, this second session will be crowned with success and highly valued by jurists and all other champions of peace and progress in the world.

The first session of this Tribunal has provided international law with new concepts and so will certainly its second session. Definitely, the B. Russell International Tribunal will have constituted a step forward which, though not so spectacular as the International Military Tribunals of Nuremberg and Tokyo of 1945-1946, will earn the gratitude of the peoples, first of all our people who pledge themselves to "fight resolutely and defeat the U.S. imperialists for the defence of their national rights and for the revolutionary cause of the people." (Premier Pham Van Dong's speech, Sept. 2, 1966).

THE VOICE OF VIET NAM

RADIO

TRANSMISSIONS IN ENGLISH

Hanoi time	G.M.T.	Meter bands	Frequencies
6.00— 6.30	23.00—23.30	25, 31, 210	11.840, 9.489, 1.240kc/s
17.00—17.00	11.00—10.30	25, 31, 210	11.760, 9.760, 1.240kc/s
20.00—20.30	13.00—13.30	25, 31, 240	11.760, 9.860. 1.240kc/s
22.30—23.00	15.30—16.00	25, 31, 240	11.660, 9.760, 1.240kc/s

RESPONDING TO SOUTH VIET NAM N.F.L. APPEAL **"RESOLUTELY TO FIGHT AND TO WIN"** *IN 1967 WINTER — 1968 SPRING*

THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMED FORCES WIN REPEATED VICTORIES

DAC TO (KONTUM)

ACCORDING to *Giai Phong* Press Agency, from Nov. 2 to 11, the enemy was repeatedly attacked in the southwest of Dac To, and suffered great losses.

On Nov. 4, the guerillas intercepted 2 American companies at Ngoc Co Bieng, 15 km southwest of Dac To and decimated them in a hand-to hand fight, causing 120 casualties among the G.I.'s.

After this defeat, a puppet Ranger company was sent to clear the way for the American paratroops of Regiment 173 to raid Ngoc Com Liet, 22 km west-southwest of Dac To. Awaiting the enemy in a battlefield prepared beforehand, the People's Liberation Armed Forces (P.L.A.F.) wiped out the whole company and put out of action over one platoon of American paratroops before the enemy was routed.

On Nov. 7 one heliborne company of G.I.'s landed in Ngoc Do Lang, 18 km southwest of Dac To in an attempt to attack the P.L.A.F. in the rear but it fell into an ambush and was completely wiped out in merely after a 15 minutes' fierce battle given by the P.L.A.F. who also downed 2 helicopters.

On Nov. 8, enemy troops were poured into a locality 4km southwest of Ngoc Do Lang but were immediately intercepted by the P.L.A.F. who badly mauled two companies.

On Nov. 9, two American companies sent to Ngoc Tang, 13km southwest of Dac To, were routed by the P.L.A.F. after losing 120 men.

On Nov. 11, two American companies sent on a reconnaissance mission to the west of Ngoc Do Lang fell into an ambush of the P.L.A.F. who put the whole enemy column out of action and downed a chopper. On the same day, 2 American companies who went from the north to the west of Ngoc Com Liet for a raid were intercepted by the P.L.A.F.: one company was wiped out, the other retreated to Height 832, 2km north of Ngoc Com Liet, but was attacked on the same night by the P.L.A.F. who put it out of action, shot down one helicopter, seized a great quantity of arms and ammunition and controlled the battlefield.

According to initial reports, from Nov. 4 to 11, 1967, the armed forces and people of Kontum province unremittingly and courageously against the enemy in the southwest of Dac To and wiped out or badly mauled 12 enemy companies, including 11 American companies. They killed or wounded 1,300 enemy soldiers, downed 13 helicopters and seized great quantities of arms and munitions.

After these battles, the Western news agencies recognized that the P.L.A.F. had continued their attacks against the G.I's at Dac To, especially the shellings on the bases of U.S. Infantry Division 4.

The enemy admits that on Nov. 15, he had 3 C-130 transport planes and one big ammunition depot destroyed (each C-130 costs 2 million dollars). According to *UPI* of Nov. 16, the ammunition dump which caters for 10,000 G.I.'s in the region burnt for one day and one night.

The battle is still raging.

QUANG NAM

ON the night of Oct. 30, 1967 the P.L.A.F. attacked the U.S. Chu Lai military complex. In five minutes of fierce combat, the Liberation fighters destroyed and damaged 50 aircraft and killed and wounded 316 G.I.'s.

This was the eight raid on Chu Lai and An Hoa. In the past seven attacks the P.L.A.F. had destroyed and heavily damaged 237 aircraft of various kinds and 30 armoured cars, sunk and damaged 3 war vessels, set fire to a petrol depot and an ammunition dump, wiped out 1,893 G.I.'s, most of them technicians and pilots.

MY THO

ABOUT 1: 25 hour on Nov. 5, 1967, the P.L.A.F. attacked Cai Lay military subsector, the biggest township in My Tho province, on strategic Highway 4 70km southwest of Saigon.

The P.L.A.F. attacked with such a surprise that the enemy was paralysed right at the start. The Liberation fighters rapidly wiped out Battalion 1, Regiment 12, puppet Division 7 (with its command staff), 1 artillery platoon, 2 "civil guard" companies Nos 844 and 835, badly mauled 1 sapper company, razed the administrative centre, the office of the chief of the district and 5 posts in the outer defence line, destroyed 2 105mm guns and downed 1 helicopter on the spot.

The P.L.A.F. took the township under its control, killed and wounded more than 800 enemy troops.

In co-ordination with this attack, the regional troops and guerillas together with the population attacked the American military base at Binh Duc near My Tho town as well as many encampments of puppet Division 7, lying along Highway 4 in Cai Be and Cai Lay districts, cut off the road into hundreds of sections from My Thuan ferry to Tan Huong, broke up a dozen "strategic hamlets," killed and wounded a great number of enemy troops, punished many cruel puppet officials, destroyed 4 105mm and 155mm guns, an ammunition dump in My Phuoc Tay "prosperity zone," 15km from Cai Be district town, on Highway 4.

The enemy admits that on Nov. 15, he had 3 C-130 transport planes and one big ammunition depot destroyed (each C-130 costs 2 million dollars). According to *UPI* of Nov. 16, the ammunition dump which caters for 10,000 G.I.'s in the region burnt for one day and one night.

The battle is still raging.

BIEN HOA

AFTER striking 9 enemy positions in the night of Oct. 26, 1967 near Phuoc Binh township and Phuoc Long town, Bien Hoa province, wiping out 1 infantry company, 1 support company and the command of Battalion 3, Regiment 9, puppet Division 5, the guerilla and regional army continued to invest Phuoc Qua post.

Thus, within two days (Nov. 4 and 5, 1967) the P.L.A.F. destroyed 1 battalion, 3 companies along with 1 armoured unit of the puppet army.

Together with the attack on 9 enemy positions the P.L.A.F. wiped out 1 battalion, 4 infantry companies, 1 company of reinforcement and 1 armoured unit.

In addition, on Nov. 11 the P.L.A.F. put out of action 1 American company (including its commander) at Binh Ninh, 10km northeast of Loc Ninh townlet.

PHAN THIET

ON the night of Nov. 7 to 8, in co-ordination with the guerillas, the regular forces attacked Ban Oc post, 34km northeast of Phan Thiet town.

The P.L.A.F. penetrated into the enemy post, occupied the C.P. since the very beginning, and fanned out in various directions to raze the post to the ground. After one hour's fighting, the P.L.A.F. got control of the battlefield, wiping out Battalion 34, Regiment 44, puppet Division 23, 1 company of of American engineers, 1 company of puppet "civil guards," 2 platoons of puppet sappers, killing, wounding and capturing nearly 700 enemy soldiers and destroying nearly 50 tanks and armoured cars.

Three aircraft coming to the rescue of the battered units were shot down.

On the night of Oct. 10, the P.L.A.F. pounded with mortar shells Nha Trang airfield, destroying and damaging 17 aircraft of various types, killing and wounding 57 enemies including the colonel commanding the airfield. This is the second time that airfield has been attacked since the beginning of the year.

RACH GIA

AT 3 a.m. on Nov. 9, 1967 the P.L.A.F. attacked Battalion 2, puppet Division 9, in a village of Chau Thanh district. According to preliminary reports, this battalion was heavily beaten, 5 soldiers were captured, 2 81 mm mortars destroyed, while 1 81mm mortar and 1 recoilless 57 mm gun fell into the hands of the Liberation fighters.

BEN TRE

FROM Oct. 24 to November 4, 1967 the P.L.A.F. repeatedly stormed 7 enemy positions in Tan Thanh military airfield, together with 7 military subsectors and My Long borough, putting out of action 1,700 enemy troops, among them more than 1,200 killed and wounded, 16 captured and nearly 550 defected. The enemy units wiped out included Battalion 16 of Special Forces No. 41, Battalion 3, Regiment 10, puppet Division 7, 23 enemy posts were razed or heavily damaged, 14 aircraft downed or injured, 6 war vessels sunk or damaged, 6 cannons destroyed, 16 military vehicles blasted or injured, and 2 bridges blown up.

CAN THO

ON the night of November 3, 1967 the P.L.A.F. annihilated 2 companies of Battalion 3, Regiment 31, puppet Division 21, in Long My military subsector, blew up Cai Sinh bridge and damaged 1 105mm gun.

THE NAM KY INSURRECTION

(Continued from page 8)

South Viet Nam. The revolution bases were quickly restored which made it possible for the South Vietnamese people to stage, together with the people throughout the country, the victorious August 1945 General Insurrection and found the Democratic Republic welding the whole country from North to South.

CONTINUING the tradition of the Nam Ky Insurrection, the South Vietnamese people marched in the van of the resistance against the French colonialists when the latter came back and started their war of reconquest on September 23, 1945. Together with the army and people in other parts of the country, the South Vietnamese people achieved resounding exploits in La Nga, Tam Vu, the Plain of Reeds... as contribution to the great Dien Bien Phu victory which compelled the French colonialists to recognize the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Vietnamese people.

Since 1954, under the yoke of the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen, the South Vietnamese people have constantly been upholding their tradition of indomitable struggle and unbreakable will for independence and freedom. It was right in the Mekong Delta, cradle of the Nam Ky Insurrection, that a movement called "simultaneous uprisings" surged up in 1957-58 against the autocratic rule of Ngo Dinh Diem, henchman of Washington. Again the South Vietnamese people took the lead in the armed struggle for self liberation. With the famous Ap Bac victory in the Plain of Reeds in January 1963, they defeated the most modern tactics of the puppet army equipped by the U.S. and commanded by American "advisers." The Binh Gia victory of the South Vietnamese patriotic army and people at the end of 1964 foretold the irretrievable defeat of the Pentagon's "special war" together with the collapse of the "strategic hamlet" system, backbone of the U.S. neo-colonialist war in South Viet Nam.

To save the puppet army and administration, U.S. imperialism openly launched a war of aggression by committing an expeditionary army to South Viet Nam to conduct destructive operations. However, the South Vietnamese people did not flinch in front of the array of U.S.-military forces. Together with the patriotic army and people throughout the southern part of Viet Nam, they brought into full play their revolutionary spirit and determination to fight and to win, and recorded resounding victories in Cam Xe, Bau Bang, Dau Tieng, Loc Ninh... thus contributing a great deal to the failure of two strategic counter-offensives of the enemy in Winter-Spring 1965-66 and 1966-67 and their two strategic defensive plans in Summer-Autumn 1966 and 1967. At present, the clarion call for bigger victories in 1967 Winter - 1968 Spring is resounding in all battlefields of South Viet Nam following the Loc Ninh (Tay Ninh province) and Long An most splendid victories.

With their military successes, the South Vietnamese people also foiled all the bloody "pacification" plans of the enemy as well as all their political manoeuvres aimed at shaking the patriotism of the people and isolating the revolutionary forces. None other than the U.S. ruling circles themselves have admitted the impossibility to "pacify" South Viet Nam, to "win the minds and hearts of the population" there, in other words, to root out all the weeds in the Plain of Reeds.

The traditional patriotism and revolutionary spirit of the South Vietnamese people, reinforced by the Nam Ky Insurrection, has taken deep roots in each inhabitant of the South Viet Nam delta and the whole of South Viet Nam. This revolutionary tradition which has been promoted by the correct leadership of genuine revolutionary organisations — today the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation with a most comprehensive political programme — is the source of all victories in the native land of the Nam Ky Insurrection and throughout South Viet Nam.

NAM KY INSURRECTION

(NOVEMBER 23, 1940)

BEFORE the gun muzzles of the French colonialist aggressors in the middle of the 19th century, Nguyen Trung Truc, a great patriot of Nam Ky (South Viet Nam proper), fearlessly declared:

"Only when no more weed grows in the Plain of Reeds
Will there be no more Vietnamese fighting against the French."

Just as weeds can never be eradicated from the immense Plain of Reeds in the Mekong Delta, the people of South Viet Nam have never loosened the hold of their guns in their resistance to foreign aggression over the past half-century. And the saga of this heroic fight has been recorded on many glorious pages, one of which is the Nam Ky Insurrection on November 23, 1940 against the French colonial rule.

The fascist terror and repression coupled with the exaction of manpower and material resources by the French colonialists in Indo-China to meet the needs of their imperialist war aroused profound indignation among all strata of the South Vietnamese people including a number of national-minded Vietnamese in the French colonialist army. Relying on the alliance of various strata of the people, first of all the peasantry, and with the support of patriotic soldiers in the colonial army, the revolutionaries in Nam Ky decided on an insurrection to win back power for the people. Spurred by an implacable hatred for the enemy and an indomitable will to reconquer freedom and independence, the uprising broke out simultaneously in nearly all the major provinces of Nam Ky such as Gia Dinh, Cho Lon, Tan An, My Tho, Vinh Long, Can Tho, Bac Lieu and Soc Trang. The insurgents assaulted many French posts, cut off many important roads, hunted down and punished the most cruel French agents and tyrannical landlords in many localities. Paddy stores of the traitorous landlords were seized and rice distributed to the poor peasants. The gold-starred red flag of the insurrection (which now becomes the national flag of the D.R.V.N.) made its first appearance and fluttered high in the areas under the people's power. The revolutionary power was established and maintained for several days in many places such as Trang Mit in Tay Ninh province.

The French colonialists drowned the uprising in a sea of blood. Along with ruthless repression operations, they sent a score of planes to strafe many insurgent villages. Thousands of patriots were killed. Tens of thousands of others were arrested, tortured and deported. A number of revolutionary leaders who had been apprehended earlier were executed. Most of the leaders of the uprising also laid their lives heroically.

Occurring in unfavourable conditions, both subjective and objective, the Nam Ky Insurrection was bound to fail as, in particular, it did not benefit by the response of the people throughout the country and as within the enemy ranks there was no weakening nor aggravation of their contradictions. Nevertheless, the patriotism and the spirit of dauntlessness of the people in the insurrection had far-reaching repercussions. The uprising once again upheld the glorious revolutionary tradition of the Vietnamese people which no force of the enemy can stamp out. After the movement failed, a number of armed patriots withdrew into the extensive swamps in the Plain of Reeds or the U Minh jungle in the western part of

(Continued page 7)

AN ILLUSTRATION OF THE SOUNDNESS OF THE POLITICAL PROGRAMME OF THE N.F.L.

At a press conference held in Hanoi on Nov. 13, 1967 by the Permanent Mission of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. in North Viet Nam, the acting head of the Mission made public the decision of the Presidium of the C.C. of the N.F.L. to appoint Messrs Trung Kon (of Djarai nationality in the Western High Plateaux) and Phan Lac Tuyen, members of its North Viet Nam-based Mission.

Phan Lac Tuyen was a captain, deputy commander of the Ranger Regiment of the Saigon Military Sector of the puppet administration, and a member of the leading committee of the coup d'état of November 11, 1960 against the Ngo Dinh Diem dictatorial regime. At the gathering, he told Vietnamese and foreign pressmen why the coup d'état was unsuccessful and what prompted him to take joint action with the N.F.L.

Dealing with the cause of this coup d'état, he said: "Ngo Dinh Diem had fully exposed himself as a traitor to the nation, a dictator who only sought gains for himself and his family." This had "badly hurt" his "feeling and conscience" and those of a number of coup supporters and incited them to act. "A very important factor which we had to take into consideration," he continued, "was the militancy of the rural population who, with their bare hands, had courageously risen up to destroy strategic hamlets in which thousands of people were being confined, physically and spiritually... Unquestionably, the movement for national independence, democracy and the vital interests of the South Vietnamese people at that time had a strong influence on a number of us."

After recalling the developments of the coup d'état in which he and a number of his friends had taken part with only enthusiasm instead of a deep political consciousness, he recalled as the main reasons for the failure of the putsch, the following "basic and most serious mistakes":

"The leading committee of the coup d'état had failed to work out clear-cut policies and lines. As a result the Committee was manipulated by the opportunists and some of the leading officers who, relying on the U.S., opposed the people's will under the anti-communist signboard. This was a fundamental mistake that deprived the coup d'état of the support of genuine patriots and the people as a whole."

He further explained, "Through these bloody experiences, I can affirm that the love of one's country and the cause of national liberation can never expect support from any colonialist or imperialist power, and none at all from the U.S., because its interests fundamentally clash with the independence and sovereignty of the nations."

Relating how he had crossed over to the people and the N.F.L., he said:

Mr. Phan Lac Tuyen at the press conference

"Not long after the coup, we learnt that the South Viet Nam N.F.L. came into being with a 10-point Programme (Dec. 1960). Since then we constantly and keenly followed our South Vietnamese compatriots' War of Resistance against the U.S., for national salvation as it became stronger and stronger, and its fame spread round the world. New developments which happened everyday gave us much food for thought. We discussed and exchanged views. And we finally came to the conclusion that there was only one course of action — to side with the anti-U.S. Front for national salvation, for only by so doing, could we achieve our noble aspiration. We studied the Front's 10-point Programme and fully approved its policy of independence, democracy, peace and neutrality. Therefore, as soon as the opportunity offered, we seized it immediately and returned from abroad to the liberated areas of our country... Since we joined in the people's fight against the U.S aggressors, we have always found in the Front and among the people the warm affection and deep sense of solidarity of fighters on a same battlefield against the common enemy of the nation. The Front and people have wholeheartedly helped us to overcome every difficulty, thus enabling us to bring into play our capacities and to make our contribution to the common cause of our country."

Phan Lac Tuyen also told of the honour he was given in participating in the Extraordinary Congress held in August 1967 at which the Front's Political Programme was adopted, and expressed his "elation and enthusiasm at being able to fight under the banner of the Front, to choose the only correct path, and together with all fellow-countrymen, to march heart and soul forward toward the final goal" while making his "small contribution to the great cause of the people."

After dealing with the present situation of South Viet Nam in general and of the Saigon puppet army in particular, he said that "the Political Programme of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. has already made abundantly clear the Front's policy towards the patriotic officers and men" and called on his friends to "think hard, to try to foresee the future, to be firm, to cling to the masses and to act only in conformity with justice, so as to seize good opportunities to make their small contribution to the common great cause of the nation."

RESPONDING TO SOUTH VIET NAM N.F.L. APPEAL **"RESOLUTELY TO FIGHT AND TO WIN"** *IN 1967 WINTER — 1968 SPRING*

THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMED FORCES WIN REPEATED VICTORIES

DAC TO — 11 U.S. Companies and 1 Puppet Company Wiped Out, 13 Helicopters Downed, Great Quantities of Weapons and Munitions Seized *(Nov. 4-11).*

QUANG NAM — An Hoa Airfield Attacked: 50 Aircraft Destroyed or Damaged, 316 G.I.'s Killed or Wounded *(Oct. 30).*

MY THO — Cai Lay Subsector Stormed: 800 Enemy Troops Put out of Action Including a Whole Battalion *(Nov. 5).*

BIEN HOA — 1 Battalion, 3 Companies and an Armoured Unit of the Puppet Army Wiped Out in an Ambush *(Nov. 4 and 5).*

(see page 7)

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